IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus for transmitting electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, the apparatus comprising:

designation means for designating a destination address for transmission of the electronic mail;

determination means for determining a format of image data in correspondence with the designated destination address by referring to a database for storing functional information of destination devices, in a case where transmission of the electronic mail data with the image data attached thereto is performed;

communication means for, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed, and in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database, ~~performing~~ initiating communication with a destination device corresponding to the designated destination address to obtain functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device[[,]] ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data in correspondence with the designated destination address is not stored in the database, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed~~;

converting means for i) converting the image data into the format determined by said determination means in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is stored in the database, ii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database and where said communication means obtains the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, ~~for~~ converting the image data into the format of the image data based on the functional information obtained ~~by~~ from the destination device by said communication means ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data has been obtained in the communication performed by said communication means~~, and iii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database, and where said communication means does not obtain the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, ~~for~~ converting the image data into ~~a baseline format which the destination device is able to process~~ a predetermined standard image format ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not obtained in the communication performed by the communication means~~; and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail data with the image data which is converted by said converting means to the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address.

2. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

designation means for designating a destination address for transmission of electronic mail;

first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;

first communicating means for communicating electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means;

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means;

determination means for determining a format of image data in correspondence with the designated destination address by referring to a database for storing functional information of destination devices, in a case where transmission of the electronic mail data with the image data attached thereto is performed;

control means for controlling said first communication means so as to, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed, and in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for a destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database, initiating ~~perform~~ communication with [[[a]] the destination device

corresponding to the designated destination address to obtain functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device[[,]] ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data in correspondence with the designated destination address is not stored in the database, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed~~; ~~and~~

converting means for i) converting the image data into the format determined by said determination means in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is stored in the database, ii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database and where said first communication means obtains the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, ~~for~~ converting the image data into the format of the image data for the destination device based on the functional information obtained from the destination device by said ~~control~~ first communication means ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data has been obtained in the communication controlled by said control means~~, and iii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database and where said first communication means does not obtain the function information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, ~~for~~ converting the image data into ~~a baseline format~~

~~which the destination device is able to process~~ a predetermined standard image format ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not obtained in the communication controlled by the control means~~; and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail data with the image data which is converted by said converting means to the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address.

3. and 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if an error occurs in the transmission of image data by said transmission means, retransmission is performed by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a plurality of individually preset number of times of retransmission including zero, in accordance with contents of the error.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein no retransmission is performed if the contents of the error indicate that there is no destination address.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if an error occurs in the transmission of image data by said transmission means, electronic mail

data describing information concerning error information is transmitted to said destination device or a previously designated electronic mail address.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if an error occurs in the transmission of the image data by said transmission means, electronic mail data having the image data attached is transmitted to a previously designated electronic mail address.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the ~~baseline image data format standard~~ predetermined standard format is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 pels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data are successively performed by a single call.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data are separately performed by at least two calls.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data are successively performed by a single call or separately performed by different calls.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein functional information of a destination apparatus is acquired by communication using one of said first and second communicating means, a database for holding a maximum

capability supported by each function is registered or updated, and, if said first communicating means is to communicate data, the data is converted into a standard registered in said database and communicated.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted is set for each function item registered in said database.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein if an address of another party with respect to said first communicating means is input, display information related to functional information is switched on an operation panel based on information in said database.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs in said first communicating means, said second communicating means communicates the image data if communication by said second communicating means is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said first communicating means is to perform communication of the functional information, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function need not be exchanged.

22. to 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a designation procedure of designating a destination address for transmission of the electronic mail;

a first connecting procedure of connecting to a local area network and a second connecting procedure of connecting to a wide area network;

a first communication procedure of communicating electronic mail data to the destination address by connecting to the Internet by one of the first or second connecting procedures;

a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by the second connecting procedure;

a determination procedure of determining a format of image data corresponding to the designated destination address by referring to a database for storing

functional information of destination devices, in a case where transmission of the electronic mail data with the image data attached thereto is performed;

a control procedure of controlling the first communication procedure so as to, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed, and in a case where the determination procedure determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for a destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database, initiating communication with the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address to obtain functional information of the format of the image for the ~~by communicating with a~~ destination device ~~by the first communicating procedure, in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data in correspondence with the designated destination address is not stored in the database, before the transmission of the electronic email data is performed~~;

a converting procedure of i) converting the image data into the format determined by said determination procedure in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is stored in the database, ii) in a case where the determination procedure determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database and where said first communication procedure obtains the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, converting the image data into the format of the image data for the destination device based on the functional information obtained ~~by~~ from the destination device by said ~~control~~

~~procedure in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data has been obtained in the communication performed by said~~ first communication procedure, and iii) in a case where the determination procedure determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database, and where said first communication procedure does not obtain the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, ~~for~~ converting the image data into ~~a baseline format which the destination device is able to process~~ a predetermined standard image format ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not obtained in the communication performed by the control procedure~~; and

a transmission procedure of transmitting the electronic mail data with the image data which is converted by the converting procedure to the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address.

26. and 27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing retransmission, if an error occurs in the transmission of image data by said transmission procedure, by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a plurality of numbers of times of retransmission including zero, which are individually set in advance, in accordance with the contents of the error.

29. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 28, further comprising performing no retransmission if the contents of the error indicate that there is no destination address.

30. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising transmitting, if an error occurs in the transmission of image data by said transmission procedure, electronic mail data describing information concerning error information to said destination device or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

31. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 30, further comprising transmitting, if an error occurs in the transmission of the image data by said transmission procedure, electronic mail data having the image data attached to a previously designated electronic mail address.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing communication such that the ~~baseline image format standard~~ predetermined standard format is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 gels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

34. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data by a single call, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

35. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising separately performing communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data by at least two calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

36. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing or separately performing communication of the functional information and the transmission of image data by a single call or by different calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

37. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

38. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in

communication and selectively verifying the timeout by recall, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

39. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring functional information of a destination apparatus by communication using one of said first and second communication procedures, registering or updating a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function, and, if communication is to be performed by said first communication procedure, converting an image standard designated by a user into a standard registered in said database on the basis of information of said database, and communicating the image.

40. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising setting whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted for each function item registered in said database.

41. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising switching a display on an operation panel related to functional information based on information in said database, if an address of another party is input in said first communication procedure.

42. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, communicating image data by said second communication procedure, if a communication

error occurs in said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

43. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, wherein, when communication of the functional information is to be performed by said first communication procedure, not exchanging, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function.

45. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A communication method of communicating electronic mail data to a destination address by connecting to the Internet, the method comprising:

a designation step of designating a destination address <u>for transmission of the electronic mail</u>;

a determination step of determining a format of image data corresponding to the designated destination address by referring to a database for storing functional information of destination devices, in a case where transmission of the electronic mail data with image data attached thereto is to be performed;

a communication step of, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed, and in a case where the determination step determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database, initiating ~~performing~~ communication with a destination device corresponding to the designated destination address to obtain functional information of the format of image data for the destination device[[,]] ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data in correspondence with the designated destination address is not stored in the database, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed~~;

a converting step of i) converting the image data into the format determined by said determination step in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is stored in the database, ii) in a case where the determination step determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database and where said communication step obtains the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, converting the image data into the format of the image data for the destination device based on the functional information

obtained ~~by~~ from the destination device by said communication step ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data has been obtained in the communication performed by said communication step~~, and iii) in a case where the determination step determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination device corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database, and where said communication step does not obtain the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination device, converting the image data into ~~a baseline format which the destination device is able to process~~ a predetermined standard image format ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not obtained in the communication performed by the communication step~~; and

a transmission step of transmitting the electronic mail data with the image data which is converted by the converting step to the destination device corresponding to the designated destination address.

52. (Currently Amended) A communication system for communication of electronic mail data by a plurality of communication apparatuses connected to the Internet, comprising:

designating means for designating a destination apparatus for transmission of electronic mail;

determination means for determining a format of image data corresponding to the designated destination apparatus by referring to a database for storing functional

information of destination apparatuses in a case where transmission of the electronic mail data with image data attached thereto is to be performed between the plurality of communication apparatuses;

communication means for, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed, and in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination apparatus corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database, initiating ~~performing~~ communication with the destination apparatus corresponding to the destination address to obtain functional information of the format of image data for the destination apparatus[[,]] ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data in correspondence with the designated destination apparatus is not stored in the database, before the transmission of the electronic mail data is performed~~;

converting means for i) converting the image data into the format determined by said determination means in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination apparatus corresponding to the designated destination address is stored in the database, ii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination apparatus corresponding to the designated destination address is not stored in the database and where said communication means obtains the functional information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination apparatus, ~~for~~ converting the image data into the format of the image data for the destination apparatus based on the functional information obtained from the destination device by said

communication means ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data has been obtained in the communication performed by said communication means~~, and iii) in a case where the determination means determines that the functional information of the format of the image data for the destination apparatus corresponding to the destination address is not stored in the database and where said communication means does not obtain the function information of the format of the image data in the communication initiated with the destination apparatus, ~~for~~ converting the image data into ~~a baseline format which the destination device is able to process~~ a predetermined standard image format ~~in a case where the functional information of the format of the image data is not obtained in the communication performed by the communication means~~; and

transmitting means for transmitting the electronic mail data with the image data which is converted by the converting means to the destination apparatus corresponding to the designated destination address.

53. to 100. (Canceled)

101. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the functional information is information indicating at least one of a coding system, resolution, and original length.

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the functional information is information indicating at least one of a coding system, resolution, and original length.

103. to 105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, wherein the functional information is information indicating at least one of a coding system, resolution, and original length.

107. to 111. (Canceled)

112. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein the functional information is information indicating at least one of a coding system, resolution, and original length.

113. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 52, wherein the functional information is information indicating at least one of a coding system, resolution, and original length.